

L'UMILE PIANTA.

CORRECTIONS & CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1894. Barrett, M., 5, Marlborough Crescent, Bedford Park, W. (sole address).
1906. Bell, L. A. (Mrs. O. T. Evans), St. Charles, Illinois, U.S.A.
1908. Biggar, H. C. (Mrs. Collins), Sandwick P.O., Vancouver Is., B.C.
1910. Biggar, A. G., c/o E. C. Grant, Esq., Rosebank, Perth, N.B.
1906. Bradford, G. I., Links Hotel, Thurlestone, South Devon (till August).
1909. Chalmers, D., at Danescliffe, St. Lawrence, Thanet (post).
1902. Clendinnen, L. E., c/o Mrs. Frank, Cliff Cottage, North Foreland, St. Peter's-in-Thanet.
1911. Deck, M., 15, Wiltie Gardens, Folkestone, Kent (sole address).
1896. Flewker, G., 28, Paget Road, Wolverhampton, (home), c/o Mrs. F. H. Anderson, Walsworth House, Hitchin (post), 7, Benslow Lane, Hitchin (rooms).
1911. Good, M., Brooklands, Sompting, Sussex; post address unsettled.
1907. Macfarlane, J., 71, St. Helen's Gardens, N. Kensington, W.; c/o Mrs. Manesty, 8, Upper Phillimore Gardens, Kensington, W.
1909. Parsons, M. M., The Meadows, Wilmslow, Cheshire (sole address).
1909. Trembeth, A. M., c/o Mrs. Donald Graham, Barrowmore, Great Barrow, Cheshire.

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BIRTH.

MAUGHAN.—On February 25th, at Burnside, Furness Vale, Cheshire, the wife of Archibald D. K. Maughan (née M. L. Strachan), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

COLLINS—BIGGAR.—On March 22nd, at the English Church, Courtney, B.C., Harold Collins, to Hilda C. Biggar.

COOPER—THORP.—On April 30th, at St. Mary's Church, Todmorden, by the Rev. C. P. Keeling, M.A., Vicar of Todmorden, assisted by the Rev. C. Dickenson, M.A., of Egton, Gordon, second son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. D. Cooper, of Grosmont, Yorks, to Olive, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Thorp, of Dobroyd, Todmorden.

EVANS—BELL.—On March 11th, at St. George's Presbyterian Church, Southport, by the Rev. James Mellis, Owen Thomas, eldest son of Mrs. Helen Evans, of Chicago (late Liverpool), to Lucy Arundel Bell, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Arundel Bell, and of Mrs. Bell, of Wavertree, Liverpool.

NOTICES.

Ten students found their way to Chilworth Street on April 4th, in spite of the strong counter-attraction of the great Ulster meeting in Hyde Park. At first we assembled at the corner of Chilworth Street and Eastbourne Terrace, and waved minute Union Jacks and watched the Paddington contingent march off to the rendezvous. Then we returned to Chilworth Street and had a pleasantly frivolous tea and talk for quite a long time. Those present were Mrs. Pringle and Miss Fraser (who left early), Misses Davis, Evans, Faunce, Franklin, Flewker, Gray, MacSheehy, and Stainton. Those of us who wended our way to 13, Chilworth Street,

on May 2nd expected to find quite a large number of students there thirsting either to impart or imbibe Conference news. Only five of us reached the goal, Misses W. Kitching, Stainton, Young, and Gray, and M. Conder. We hope many more will come to the June meeting, and come armed with any snapshots that they may have taken during the week at Ambleside.

Hotel Richelieu, Rue Richelieu 1, Tours (R. Blanchet, Propriétaire), is strongly recommended as being quiet, clean, and comfortable, with a café quite near for meals. Bed and breakfast cost four francs. It has electric light and "confort moderne."

A convenient press for drying wild flowers is also recommended to our notice. It consists of some layers of cotton wool between two frames of wire netting, kept together by a strap. Flowers can be dried in front of the fire in this press in eight hours, or in two or three days in sunshine alone, and they keep their colour perfectly. The cotton wool is both absorbent and penetrable by air and heat, so that the number of layers must be limited. These presses are stocked by Gamage's and other London firms in two sizes, 7 in. by 5½ in., 2s.; and a larger size with two straps at 3s. 6d.

Miss Mason is anxious to know if any old students would like to come to Fairfield this summer. If so, will they kindly write to Miss E. Kitching *at once*?

The letter from the Present Students has unavoidably been omitted, with permission from the PIANTA Monitress. They wish to express their hearty thanks to all the ex-students at the Conference for their kind hospitality, the delightful "At Home," and the day spent at the Langdales which everyone so much enjoyed.

The next number of L'UMILE PIANTA will appear on November 15th. All communications must reach the Editor by October 25th.

CONFERENCE BALANCE SHEET.

<i>Received.</i>	<i>Paid Away.</i>
	£ s. d.
79 Conference tickets at 2/6 ...	9 17 6
14 week-end tickets at 1/6 ...	1 1 0
70 drive tickets, at 2/6 ...	8 15 0
74 tea tickets at 1/3 ...	4 12 6
Odd tickets and programmes ...	0 3 3
Hire of hall	2 10 0
Caretaker	0 5 0
Scale How maids	1 10 0
Tea at Rothay Holme—butter, tea, & milk, 5/-	
Jackson's, 12/-	1 16 6
Walton's, 10/6	
Bread & sugar, 2/-	
Crockery (hire of) 7/-	
Drive to Dungeon Ghyll ...	8 15 0
Tea at hotel (110 at 9d.) ...	4 2 6
P.p.cs, stamps, & carriage of goods	0 9 9
250 Conference programmes ...	0 12 0
250 copies of Miss Mason's letter ...	0 5 0
100 tea tickets ...	0 2 6
100 Conference tickets ...	0 2 6
50 drive tickets ...	0 2 0
	20 12 9
Balance to Ass. Funds ...	3 16 6
	24 9 3

LILIAN GRAY, Hon. Treasurer.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Editor believes she is voicing the general opinion in saying that this Conference has been one of the most successful, perhaps even *the* most successful, ever held. The weather, of sufficient importance surely to be placed first, was perfection. The papers were each so interesting that the Editor's task of squeezing them into the PLANT—not endlessly elastic, alas!—has been really hopeless. Several papers have been entirely omitted, to appear later on. Others have suffered from the "blue pencil," but such an unwilling pencil! But it is to be hoped that this number may still contain something of the bright, inspiring, enthusiastic spirit which animated our Conference, may reflect some of the glow of that wonderful week.

Miss Harriet Smeeton writes that she wishes to make "some slight acknowledgement to the Committee who so successfully managed the Conference." She has most kindly given to the P.N.E.U. Library Mr. Burrell's book on the art of reading, which many of us have wanted to read. We shall now have the opportunity, and shall best show our thanks to Miss Smeeton for her very kind gift by borrowing the book with what speed we may.

Telegrams of congratulation were received from four students in Western Canada, Misses Williams, Brooks, Biggar, and Haggie, from Miss Faunce, Miss Nield, Miss Hall, and Mrs. Pyper. A most kind letter was also received from Mr. Perez. Postcards of Scale How and the Garden were sent in reply to each of the kind people who had remembered us.



LIST OF STUDENTS PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE.

J. Y. Aitken.	L. Gray.	F. Rankin.
G. Aldridge.	B. M. Goode.	K. M. Robotham.
F. M. Adcock.	M. Gibson.	M. Ruston.
G. M. Bernau.	M. Good.	D. Rohde.
D. Brownell.	M. Gladding.	E. Smith.
I. E. Brown.	C. E. Henderson.	H. M. Stubbs.
A. G. Biggar.	W. S. Henderson.	Mrs. Hall.
M. Baines.	D. Humfrey.	H. Smeeton.
G. Bell.	A. M. Henderson.	L. Stainton.
D. J. Bradford.	F. Judd.	Hilda Smeeton.
L. E. Clendinnen.	M. W. Kitching.	C. Strachan.
K. Clendinnen.	M. King.	M. Sharman.
G. Clendinnen.	M. S. Lobjoit.	Mrs. Esslemont.
C. Cooper.	H. Lundeblad.	O. Thorp.
D. Chalmers.	O. M. Lowe.	A. M. Trembeth.
L. Channing Pearce.	R. Lowe.	A. G. Roffe.
A. C. Cuscaden.	E. S. Mence.	J. R. Smith.
V. C. Curry.	J. Macfarlane.	M. Spelman.
I. D. Cooke.	L. McDonald.	F. M. Truman.
A. M. Drury.	D. E. Norris.	M. Vine.
M. E. Davis.	G. Newman.	Mrs. Hughes Jones.
C. H. Davidson,	M. J. B. Millar.	H. E. Wix.
M. M. East.	T. S. Malden.	A. P. Whittall.
D. Edmonds.	B. Moffatt.	M. D. Whittall.
G. Flewker.	D. M. Oliver.	E. F. A. Winter.
E. E. Flower.	F. Other.	P. D. Wilkinson.
M. E. Franklin.	N. Openshaw.	M. Wilkinson.
Edith Frost.	R. A. Pennethorne.	F. W. Young.
E. Frost.	E. A. Parish.	
D. I. Feiling.	H. E. Pollard.	

THE CONFERENCE.

OPENING ADDRESS.

MY VERY DEAR FRIENDS,

It gives me particular delight to welcome you here just now not only as beloved Old Students, but as staunch fellow-workers, labouring for what one of us—a P.N.E.U. member—describes as a new Revival of Learning.

The note of joyousness which I usually find in Old Students' letters and in the examination papers of their children is to my mind *the* note of the revival we are working for, because it is almost always joy in books, in knowledge. You remember that delightful schoolmaster of the Middle Ages, who called his Mantuan school *La Giocosa*, because it was in truth a house of joy, the joys being those of plain living and high thinking, and of great delight in learning, joys shared by prince and peasant, for Vittorine did not believe that the love of knowledge belonged to any one class. Your little schoolrooms often remind me of *La Giocosa*, in fact, each of them is *La Giocosa*, because the children are vitalized by their delight in knowledge.

There are various signs that whatever little secrets we may have arrived at in the way of imparting this joy, one of the greatest in life, we shall be called upon to share with other teachers in schools for various classes and ages; indeed, your hearts would burn within you if you could know of the avidity with which elementary teachers, for example, are gathering up stray hints as to our methods. This is how a schoolmistress wrote the other day to a mother whose daughter had been brought up in the P.U.S. (not by one of you, though!). "The teachers," this lady says, "speak of a certain enthusiasm in her work, most helpful to the teachers, and infectious to the class as a whole."

Truly we have every incentive to labour in this crusade

for, let us call it, the Revival of Learning. But then it is a crusade, and I need not remind you that those who go crusading bear a cross. It was said of one of you the other day that, "The true spirit of inner discipline is there," and I am happy in believing that the words apply to you all. But our cross is something more than the common discipline of the Christian life. Here is where I think it lies. Many of you are brilliant teachers, with attractive personalities, open to that temptation to fill the stage, as it were, common to all teachers. It is so easy and delightful to explain and expound, so difficult to carry the children on to personal effort by the force of silent sympathy and that love of knowledge common to you and to them. I am, as you know, jealous of the play of what is called personal influence, which is, I think, largely accountable for the fact that the love and pursuit of knowledge so commonly ends with school life; but I think we are at one about this matter, and should like you to read a paper read at our late Darlington Conference, which indicates, I think, a new departure for our coming of age.

I believe we shall all feel the call to a renewed effort in grasping our principles and to increased zeal in making them known. [Here Miss Mason's paper, "Trop de Zèle," was read to us. It will appear in the *Parents' Review*.]

It will interest you to know the steps by which the kind of work I have indicated is being taken up by two or three members of our Union. Mrs. Franklin heard the Headmaster of a great public school say to an audience that, "He did not know how to teach English." I may say in passing, that the teaching of English in that school is very brilliant, but it is quite possible that the masters do not understand that it is by reading and not by teaching that a knowledge of English is acquired. But to go on with our story, Mrs. Franklin and our General Organizing Secretary

made a noble offer to go and explain to the masters what our methods were. They received a hearty welcome, and the seed they sowed is germinating very satisfactorily. Mrs. Steinthal again found that elementary teachers in Yorkshire were greatly dissatisfied with the manner of education they were giving. The inspector of the district is a friend of hers, and she brought him here. He probably taught as much as he learned from us, or more, but the immediate outcome was a meeting of a dozen schoolmasters and mistresses at Mrs. Steinthal's house, to see papers and hear talk, in which Miss Drury gave great assistance. This happened last term, and already in a neighbouring town some 200 headmasters and mistresses arranged themselves for a lecture from Mrs. Steinthal on our methods, which was listened to with profound interest, and is likely to have results. The School Board of a big town seems willing to give grants for our books, and numbers of teachers are keen to watch the experiment of working on our programmes which has started in two or three schools. The teachers speak of it as new life.

I know that as you hear all this zeal inflames your hearts, but it must be zeal characterized as in the cases I have mentioned by great diffidence and skill in waiting on opportunity. If it should come in your way to become acquainted with the H.M. Inspector of your neighbourhood, you might get a chance to introduce the subject, which I am sure you would do wisely. Your children's examination papers would be an immense help, coupled with the assurance that hundreds of children are doing the same work, probably equally well. Of course your first care would be to interest the lady whom you call your "postess," and she would help you in the rest, perhaps inviting (through the inspector or director) some of the teachers of the neighbourhood to see our books, hear of our methods, and to see something of the

children's work, chiefly old examination papers. It is an interesting fact that in most of the counties of England we have the means at hand for this sort of missionary organization, but I should like to urge on you the importance of working *through* H.M. Inspectors.

We women have a headlong way of rushing at things which does not always make for success, whereas the tact and even the very slowness to move of important officials tell in the long run, especially in dealing with teachers, who know that they are accomplishing a great work, and are themselves slow to move. I need not tell you to write to the Office or the College for any help, papers, etc., you may be in need of.

One more cautionary word. I should rather you did not take up this matter as a "cause" with any degree of violence or perturbation or any excitement which should lead to the neglect of those "few sheep in the wilderness"—the children in your own *Giocosa*. But I know that such words of caution are quite unnecessary, and commit to your wisdom and discretion a great cause with great confidence.
—Always affectionately yours,

C. M. MASON.

N.B.—I believe that one of H.M. Inspectors is preparing a report on our work for the Board of Education. It might be as well to wait before you take any active steps until it is possible to make use of this report, which will be noticed in the *Parents' Review*.

LETTERS TO THE STUDENTS.

Government House,
Ootacamund,

March 25th, 1914.

MY DEAR AMBLESIDERS,

In case you have time to devote a few moments of valuable Conference time to those who are absent from you (in body only!), I write a few lines.

In Government House, as I am, one has practically no experience of India, but purely of the European in India. In the South, one does not need to acquire even the most superficial knowledge of the language, as all the natives speak English.

But apart from the work, the privilege of a post like this is, that one meets such a lot of people, and people who are doing great work, and have great responsibilities. It is true, too, that one meets numberless people once or twice, and then they pass on. Another thing, too, is, that one cannot select one's own circle of friends. It is a case of "everybody" or "nobody," because you always meet the same people on every occasion. But these are only a newcomer's first impressions. Gradually as you get accustomed to the life, you find that "society" who seemed at first so indifferent to anything but tennis and dancing, is full of longing and striving, interests and hobbies, and a very small proportion of the women spend all their afternoons playing bridge.

A great many of the people you meet out here are young parents, and love to discuss their children, whether at home or out here. I tell lots of them about the P.N.E.U., and some appreciate it, and some seem to think it is rather unpractical in spite of my persuasion, or else they say, "But my children are at home, so its no use for me." I always hope they will come across someone else, and then remember they were told of it before. I feel sure a branch here would help many, but have not yet seen a way to starting one.

This is nothing about my post, except that the attitude of people in general, and towards children in particular, makes me wish all Scale How were in posts here. So many people say, "We don't want to push on our children," and let them spend their first five, six, seven or